

From: ["Thomas. Hattie" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B1EBAFC79FA94F308D9F6EBB0424E75A-THOMAS.HATTIE>](mailto:Thomas.Hattie@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=B1EBAFC79FA94F308D9F6EBB0424E75A-THOMAS.HATTIE)
To:
CC:
Date: 11/13/2013 4:26:35 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest for 11/13/13

OPA Daily Digest for 11/13/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (Mo.) 10/29/13. Recommendation for an EPA position. Due: 11/13/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Deb Fischer (Neb.) 10/29/13. Concerns regarding the process and training of licensed EPA building inspectors. Due: 11/13/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) 9/23/13. Subcontractor complaints of payments not received for work done for lead removal at North County Schools in St. Francois County. Due: 10/9/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Scripps - Lawan Hamilton – 11/8/13 – Inquiry regarding the status of the Doe Run consent agreement. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

WDAF Channel 4, Kansas City – Tanya Potts – 11/13/13 – Questions about mercury spill response. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Des Moines Register - Northey: Iowa still has corn worth about \$1 billion to get out of fields - 11/12/13 - Iowa farmers still have 12 percent of the corn harvest to complete, a new report shows, as snow flurries sidelined many farmers this week. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2013/11/12/northey-iowa-still-has-corn-worth-about-1-billion-to-get-out-of-fields/article>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Mo. high court rejects MSD stormwater charge - 11/13/13 - The state's highest court ruled that a stormwater charge implemented and later withdrawn by the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District was instead a tax that violated Missouri's constitution. http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/missouri-high-court-rejects-msd-stormwater-charge/article_5ce1b131-8bdd-5494-b1c3-61a024c03315.html

Lincoln Journal-Star - Prairieland Dairy near Firth wants to expand, compost food waste - 11/13/13 - A dairy farm in southern Lancaster County wants to expand its composting operation by accepting food waste from area schools, villages and possibly from Lincoln. <http://journalstar.com/news/local/prairieland-dairy-near-firth-wants-to-expand->

compost-food-waste/article_40f4e891-fe54-5dea-855f-abc6511134ee.html

Cedar Rapids Gazette (Iowa) - Farmers defends conservation practices following ethanol critique | Iowa farmers dispute article's claims on conservation - 11/12/13 - Iowa farmers are denouncing a news-agency investigation that suggests a federal push for corn-ethanol hurts the environment. <http://thegazette.com/2013/11/12/farmers-defends-conservation-practices-following-ethanol-critique/>

Salina Journal - EPA's ethanol scam - 11/13/13 - We don't know if requiring the use of cellulosic ethanol (or any other kind) is a good or even workable idea. But we do know that when government runs amok, it hurts all of us because it destroys our faith in that government. The EPA wants to encourage the production and use of cellulosic ethanol, but all it's produced is more cynicism. <http://www.salina.com/editorials/ethanol-edit-for-Wednesday--Nov--13--2013>

ABC News - Prairies Vanish in the US Push for Green Energy - 11/13/13 - Across the Dakotas and Nebraska, more than 1 million acres of the Great Plains are giving way to corn fields as farmers transform the wild expanse that once served as the backdrop for American pioneers. <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/prairies-vanish-us-push-green-energy-20871537>

The Hill - House chairman: EPA trying to control all U.S. waters - 11/13/13 - A draft regulation currently under an interagency review at the White House would allow the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to control virtually all man-made and natural bodies of water in the country, according to Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas). <http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/pending-regs/190027-house-chairman-epa-trying-to-control-all-us-waters>

Pork Network - Groups weigh in on EPA draft report on waters of the U.S. - 11/11/13 - Agricultural organizations are raising concern over the Environmental Protection Agency's draft report "Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: a Review and Synthesis of Scientific Evidence." When finalized, the report could be the scientific basis for defining "waters of the United States," and could result in expanded EPA and Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. <http://www.porknetwork.com/editorial/Groups-weigh-in-on-EPA-draft-report-on-waters-of-the-US--231493921.html>

Poitico - Will President Obama slash ethanol mandate? - 11/12/13 - The Obama administration may be about to hand the oil industry a major victory by reducing the federal requirement for blending ethanol into fuel — a decision with big implications for farm-state politics, food prices and the nation's energy markets. <http://www.politico.com/story/2013/11/ethanol-epa-biofuel-blending-gasoline-agriculture-99689.html>

The Hill (blog) - Ag Secretary Vilsack: 'I don't know' whether ethanol helps climate - 11/12/13 - The Associated Press is out with a big new investigation concluding that U.S. ethanol policy is taking a heavy toll on U.S. lands and waters while offering dubious climate benefits. <http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/189852-ag-secretary-vilsack-%E2%80%99i-don%E2%80%99t-know%E2%80%99-whether-ethanol-helps-climate>

Omaha World-Herald - Ethanol rises above partisanship - 11/11/13 - Two Iowa congressmen are setting aside ideological differences to wage a united fight in defense of the corn-based ethanol industry, an economic engine in the Hawkeye State. <http://www.owh.com/article/20131111/NEWS/131119845>

Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier (Iowa) - Indoor air scrubbers: House plants serve beneficial role - 11/10/13 - Some of our favorite plants like aloe vera, potted Boston fern, Peace lily, English ivy, spider plant and variegated mother-in-law's tongue (snake plant) can improve indoor air quality. http://wfcourier.com/lifestyles/indoor-air-scrubbers-house-plants-serve-beneficial-role/article_54fac679-9964-54cb-b78d-46fc7346c6f3.html

Quad-City Times - Vilsack: To increase ethanol use, expand distribution, open new markets - 11/8/13 - Amid rumors that the Environmental Protection Agency will scale back legal requirements on the use of ethanol next year, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said there should be less focus on the numbers and more attention to developing new strategies to expand the biofuels market. http://wfcourier.com/lifestyles/indoor-air-scrubbers-house-plants-serve-beneficial-role/article_54fac679-9964-54cb-b78d-46fc7346c6f3.html

Salina Journal - A cost of doing business - 11/10/13 - Like every refinery in the United States, the NCRA Refinery in McPherson is required to buy a certain amount of cellulosic ethanol every year to blend into the fuel it produces. <http://www.salina.com/news/schmethanol-Sunday-A1--Nov--10--2013#sthash.CpQDhZZ0.dpuf>

Iowa City Press-Citizen - Johnson County's Field of Beams (+video) - For the last five years, tucked away in southwest Johnson County in the unincorporated community of Frytown, Farmers Electric Cooperative has been one of the state's leading proponents of solar power. <http://www.press-citizen.com/article/20131104/NEWS01/311040033/>

The Energy Collective - Oil Sands and the Environment: Part 1 - 11/12/13 - Today's article will focus on greenhouse gas emissions, impacts on wildlife, water usage (I will cover this in much greater detail in future articles), and an organization that is working to improve the environmental conditions as the oil sands are developed. The next article will discuss the tailings ponds, open pit mining, water consumption, impacts to water quality, and impacts to indigenous people. <http://theenergycollective.com/roberttrapier/302166/oil-sands-and-environment-part-i>

Global Research - Trans-Canada Keystone XL, Risks of Widespread Environmental Contamination: Anomalies, Dents and Holes Detected in Southern Pipeline - 11/12/13 - Public Citizen has released a chilling report revealing that the 485-mile KXL southern line is plagued by dents, faulty welding, exterior damage that was patched up poorly and misshapen bends, among other troubling anomalies. <http://www.globalresearch.ca/trans-canada-keystone-xl-risks-of-widespread-environmental-contamination-anomalies-dents-and-holes-detected-in-southern-pipeline/5357901>

Daily Gate City - Alliant Energy has invested \$6.3M in Keokuk infrastructure - 11/13/13 - Alliant Energy invested \$6,318,977 in its Keokuk infrastructure during 2001-12, a spokesperson for the company told the Keokuk City Council recently. http://www.dailygate.com/news/article_6e1b37b6-b600-5208-a7a1-a01d776e99a1.html

KBIA Radio (Columbia Public Radio) - Mo. DNR gives five school districts funds to replace buses - 11/13/13 - The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is awarding five Missouri school districts with funds to replace their old school buses with newer, cleaner-running versions. The five districts chosen are Clever, Hannibal, Joplin, Ozark and West County. <http://kbia.org/post/mo-dnr-gives-five-school-districts-funds-replace-buses>

Associated Press - 5 Mo. school districts getting federal funds to replace buses with energy-efficient versions - 11/12/13 - Five Missouri school districts will be getting federal money to replace old school buses with more energy-efficient versions. <http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/33a9c0278d3f4a428d9bca0bd4d1fd80/MO--School-Buses-Energy>

Bloomberg - Tea Party's Green Faction Fights for Solar in Red States - 11/12/13 - When do Tea Party Republicans stand together with Sierra Club environmentalists? The answer is on their support for solar energy against the monopoly power of traditional utilities in some of the most conservative U.S. states. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-11-12/tea-party-s-green-faction-fights-for-solar-in-red-states.html>

Motley Fool - Does the Coal Industry Have a Worthwhile Argument? - 11/13/13 - The coal industry has offered up many arguments, pleading its case against increased regulations by the Environmental Protection Agency. Record oil and natural gas production is revolutionizing the United States' energy position. Unfortunately, finding the winners can be difficult. <http://www.fool.com/investing/general/2013/11/13/does-the-coal-industry-have-a-worthwhile-argument.aspx>

Motley Fool - 1 Reason Why Solar Is Just Getting Started - 11/13/13 - Climate change is a hot-button topic for many in the U.S., with many still doubting both the science and whether human activity is part of the reason behind it. However, the scientific community at large is pretty well convinced that both of these things are indeed happening. <http://www.fool.com/investing/general/2013/11/13/one-huge-reason-why-solar-is-just-getting-started.aspx>

National Journal - Manchin: 'There's an Overreach by the EPA' - 11/13/13 - West Virginia Democratic Senator Joe Manchin criticized the administration's efforts to regulate carbon emissions from power plants and urged the federal government to listen to market signals when investing in new energy technology. <http://www.nationaljournal.com/energy/manchin-there-s-an-overreach-by-the-epa-20131113>

The Hill - Attacks on EPA are attacks on health, safety - 11/13/13 - For me, clean air isn't an abstract concept. I grew up in a polluted town and struggled with childhood asthma. I know what it means to be forced to breathe dirty air. That's why it's so important to me that EPA is able to do its job and protect Americans from air pollution—including carbon from power plants. <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/190010-attacks-on-epa-are-attacks-on-our-health-and-safety>

Grist - Hearing aid: How to get the most out of an EPA listening session - 11/12/13 - EPA decided to hold "Listening Sessions" across the country on cleaning up existing power

plants. With these events, EPA aimed to check the pulse of America — or at least say it had really tried to check the pulse of America — before writing the new benchmarks.
<http://grist.org/climate-energy/how-to-be-a-session-player-for-the-epa/>

Greenwire - Ethanol fails to live up to its promise -- report - 11/12/13 - While boosters of ethanol have touted it as an environmental fuel, an Associated Press investigation has found the opposite. The surge to find new areas to plant corn has eliminated 5 million acres of conservation land, destroyed natural habitat and polluted water supplies, according to the investigation. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059990323/feed>

Greenwire - Ethanol industry disputes findings of AP probe - 11/12/13 - The ethanol industry is disputing an Associated Press investigation that linked production of the corn-based fuel to environmental damage. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059990308/feed>

AgWeb - AP Ethanol Report: 'It's Just Not True' - 11/12/13 - An AP report criticizes the ethanol industry as being damaging to the environment and points a finger at the Obama administration for supporting ethanol as a form of green energy. The report has, understandably, drawn strong reactions from the ethanol industry. http://www.agweb.com/article/ap_ethanol_report_its_just_not_true_NAA_Jen_Russell/

AgWeb - Industry Fires Back at AP Ethanol Story - 11/12/13 - Industry reaction was strong and swift to an Associated Press investigative story published this morning concluding that the federal government's ethanol mandate "has proven far more damaging to the environment than politicians promised and much worse than the government admits today." http://www.agweb.com/article/industry_fires_back_at_ap_ethanol_story_NAA_Boyce_Thompson/

Brownfield Ag News - Ethanol supporters label AP report 'inaccurate, misleading' (audio) - 11/12/13 - Supporters of ethanol are criticizing an Associated Press investigative report on the environmental impacts of ethanol. In a conference call with reporters on Monday, the Renewable Fuels Association's vice president for research and analysis, Geoff Cooper, discussed his concerns with the AP report. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2013/11/12/ethanol-supporters-label-ap-report-inaccurate-misleading-reckless/>

Associated Press - Food allergy awareness heads to president's desk - 11/13/13 - The deaths of two girls in Illinois and Virginia from severe food allergies have helped spur efforts to get schools to stockpile emergency medications that can save lives. <http://www.kansascity.com/2013/11/13/4618050/food-allergy-awareness-heads-to.html>

TreeHugger - Building a clean energy economy that works - 11/11/13 - To prevent irreparable disruption to our climate and human civilization, we must get to 100 percent fossil fuel free energy production, and we must do it quickly. <http://www.treehugger.com/green-jobs/building-clean-energy-future-works.html>

Bloomberg - Tea party, environmentalists partner to push solar energy - 11/12/13 - Here's a riddle to vex the Washington political class: When do tea party Republicans stand together with Sierra Club environmentalists? The answer is on their support for solar energy against the monopoly power of traditional utilities in some of the most conservative U.S. states. <http://www.buffalonews.com/news-wire-services/tea-party-environmentalists-partner-to-push-solar-energy-20131112>

Wall Street Journal - What Solar Power Needs for a Brighter Future - 11/11/13 - Solar power has been on a roll in recent years, as plummeting prices for solar panels and generous government incentives have helped to make it much more affordable. <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304520704579129211308141046>

Washington Post (blog) - Time to kill the corn ethanol mandate - 11/12/13 - Given total Republican obstructionism in Congress, President Obama's climate legacy will depend mostly on executive action. But new developments on the corn ethanol front could pave the way for a bipartisan compromise on an issue that could have a real impact on climate change. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/wp/2013/11/12/time-to-kill-the-corn-ethanol-mandate/>

Inside EPA - EPA Vows To Address States' Concerns On 'Re-Manufacturing' Waiver In DSW - 11/13/13 - EPA waste chief Mathy Stanislaus says the agency's long-delayed rule defining solid waste (DSW) will seek to address some of states' concerns that a proposed waiver from waste handling requirements for "re-manufactured" solvents. <http://insideepa.com/201311132452718/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-vows-to-address-states-concerns-on-re-manufacturing-waiver-in-dsw/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - DOE Weighs Water-Energy Nexus For 'Second Generation' Of CCS Projects - 11/13/13 - A top Department of Energy (DOE) official says there is a need for more "second generation" carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) projects that address the nexus between water use at utilities and energy production.

<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201311132452706/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/doe-weighs-water-energy-nexus-for-second-generation-of-ccs-projects/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - House Panel Advances CWA Waivers As Backstop For Farm Bill Effort - 11/12/13 - The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee has approved three measures exempting some agriculture activities from federal water regulations, acting largely to ensure the provisions can move on a separate legislative track if they are ultimately dropped from the final House-Senate conference report on the Farm Bill. <http://insideepa.com/Environmental-Policy-Alert/Environmental-Policy-Alert-11/13/2013/house-panel-advances-cwa-waivers-as-backstop-for-farm-bill-effort/menu-id-132.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Draft Plan Codifies CWA Waivers But Industry Fears Expanded Scrutiny - 11/12/13 - The administration's plan clarifying the reach of the Clean Water Act (CWA) over smaller waters will, for the first time, codify long-time policy and statutory waivers that have exempted categories of waters from the law's reach. <http://insideepa.com/201311122452630/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-draft-plan-codifies-cwa-waivers-but-industry-fears-expanded-scrutiny/menu-id-95.html>

BNA - New Pollution Studies Drove Standards For Particulates, EPA Tells D.C. Circuit - 11/13/13 - New research showing that short-term exposure to fine particulate matter can affect health compelled the EPA to revise air quality standards, the agency tells D.C. Circuit. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38117165&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3e5x6y7&split=0

BNA - EPA Issues Alternative Methods to Calculate Emissions for Electronics Manufacturers - 11/13/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency will amend the calculation methods electronics manufacturers will use to report their greenhouse gas emissions data beginning with the 2014 calendar year. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38117155&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3e5c9h3&split=0

BNA - EPA Inspector General Begins Research For Evaluation of State Revolving Fund - 11/13/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency inspector general began preliminary research Nov. 12 to evaluate results of the agency's drinking water state revolving fund projects, according to a memo. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38117154&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3e5c8n4&split=0

BNA - Comment Deadline on NexGen Extended Two Months Test Tubes - 11/13/13 - Trade associations, nonprofit organizations, professional societies and other parties interested in the Environmental Protection Agency's plans to incorporate new science in risk assessment will have two additional months to comment on a draft document released Sept. 30. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38117167&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3e5x8z0&split=0

BNA - House Committee Summons McCarthy To Explain Water Act Jurisdiction Rule - 11/13/13 - The head of the Environmental Protection Agency will defend the agency's draft rule on Clean Water Act jurisdiction before the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee on Nov. 14. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=38117176&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e3e6m6d8&split=0

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

11/14/13 – National Association of Farm Broadcasting Trade Talk, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

11/14/13 – SUPR All Hands Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Jaci Ferguson, 7310

11/15/13 – Meet and Greet with Colonel Andrew Sexton, US Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

11/15/13 – National Association of Farm Broadcasters – Drought Resilience Partnership Rollout, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

12/3/13 – SES National Executive Leadership Development Conference, Washington DC. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

12/9/13 – Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, National Archives at Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

12/16/13 – Interagency Environmental Leadership Council, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

12/18/13 – Missouri Agribusiness Association Annual Convention, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

12/19/13 – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

DRA:

11/14/13 – Environmental Protection in Indian Country Training, Regional Office. Contact: Jane Kloeckner, 7235

11/14/13 – National Association of Farm Broadcasting Trade Talk, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

11/14/13 – SUPR All Hands Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Jaci Ferguson, 7310

11/15/13 – Meet and Greet with Colonel Andrew Sexton, US Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

12/5-6/13 – Executive Management Council, Washington DC. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

12/9/13 – Region 7 Senior Management Retreat, National Archives at Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

12/19/13 – Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office, Wendy Lubbe, 7551

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

11/19-20/2013 – Hosting the RMP codes and standards training, Regional Office. Contact Patrick Bustos, 7969.

11/20-21/2013 – Hosting Pollution Prevention Roundtable, Kansas City, Mo. Contact; Jim Callier, 7646.

11/21/2013 – Attending the Missouri Air Conservation Commission meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Amy Bhesania, 7147.

12/12/2013 – Attending outreach session with Iowa Utilities on Carbon Pollution Standards, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Mark Smith, 7876

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

11/14-15/13 – Carter Carburetor Public Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Pamela Johnson, 7480

11/13-15/13 – Santee Sioux Healthy Homes Training, Niobrara, Neb. Contact: Karim Dawani, 7289

12/4 – 12/6/13 – Senior Enforcement Managers Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: DeAndré Singletary, 7373

ENSV

None

PLMG

11/19/13 - Federal Executive Board Annual Small Business Roundtable Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chester Stovall, 7549

11/19/13 - Federal Executive Board and Chamber of Commerce Small Business Planning Meeting, Kansas City, MO. Contact: Chester Stovall, 7549

11/21/13 - GovFest Government Business Services Conference, Overland Park, KS. Contact: Chester Stovall, 7549

RA/OPA

11/14-15/13 – Carter Carburetor Public Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Belinda Young, 7394 and Chris Whitley, 7394

SUPR

11/20-22/13: Oversight of pre-construction activities West Lake Landfill, Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Matthew Jefferson, 7520

11/20/13: Public availability session to discuss DOD vapor intrusion investigation St. Louis Ordnance Plant, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Matthew Jefferson, 7520

WWPD

11/18/13 - National Capacity Development & Operator Certification Workshop, Atlanta, Ga. Contact: Bob Dunlevy, 7798

Hattie L. Thomas
Acting Director
Office of Public Affairs
EPA Region 7
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, KS 66219
Ph: 913-551-7762, Fax: 913-551-7066